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Committee on Relations with the Host Country

Letter dated 29 November 2018 from the Permanent Representative of Cuba to the United Nations addressed to the Chair of the Committee on Relations with the Host Country

I am writing to you in relation to an unfortunate situation motivated by the host country of the United Nations.

Cuba holds the status of President Pro Tempore of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC). As a demonstration of the importance that our country attaches to this organization, our Government decided to designate the Deputy Minister of Foreign Trade and Investment, Ileana Núñez Mordoche, to preside over the regional interactive dialogue of the Latin American and Caribbean countries on the priorities of the region with a view to holding the second High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation, in her capacity as Chair of the ECLAC Committee on South-South Cooperation.

Unfortunately, the disrespectful attitude of the United States Government prevented Deputy Minister Núñez Mordoche from attending the event by unreasonably delaying the granting of her entry visa to the United States, which had been duly processed.

This action by the United States violates its obligations under the United Nations Headquarters Agreement, which clearly indicates that entry visas for representatives of Member States should be issued as soon as possible so that they can travel, in a timely manner, on an official mission to the United Nations, including to attend meetings.

The United States cannot use its status as the host country to selectively implement the Agreement or to achieve its bilateral agenda against certain countries.

Issues related to the entry into the United States of representatives of Member States should be dealt with regardless of the bilateral relations of the host country.

We regret that the United States Government continues to show disrespect for multilateral organizations and their Member States.

We would appreciate it if you could promptly contact the United States authorities to ensure that the host country complies with its obligations to the United Nations under the aforementioned Headquarters Agreement, in order to avoid a recurrence of such events.

(*Signed*) Anayansi **Rodríguez Camejo**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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